

News Release

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CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA AUTHORITY APPOINTS NEW LEAD SCIENTIST University of Montana Professor Selected to Direct CALFED Science Efforts

Sacramento – The California Bay-Delta Authority today approved the appointment of Dr. Johnnie N. Moore as the new lead scientist for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. A geologist with an extensive background in environmental issues including river basin restoration, Dr. Moore will be responsible for continuing the integration of science into all areas of the CALFED Program.

A native Californian, Dr. Moore joined the University of Montana faculty as a professor of geology in 1977. He has led multiple research programs during his tenure there, including several high profile river and watershed rehabilitation projects. His research focus has included the cycling of metals in aquatic systems such as wetlands, rivers and reservoir systems.

Dr. Moore was the unanimous recommendation of a 10-member Nominating Committee as well as the Authority's Independent Science Board, a panel of 15 scientists from across the United States established in 2003 to advise the Authority on science issues relevant to the CALFED Program. He succeeds the Programs' first lead scientist, Dr. Sam Luoma, who left the program in late 2003 to return to a full-time research position with the USGS.

"Dr. Moore has distinguished himself as a strong voice for science and a capable leader on complex scientific projects," California Bay-Delta Authority Director Patrick Wright said. "He has a long record of applying scientific knowledge to guide and inform resource management and ecosystem restoration issues. His insight and skills will be a tremendous asset to the Program."

"Dr. Sam Luoma's leadership in this position has paved the way for important work ahead," Dr. Chip Groat, Director of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) said. "I'm confident that Dr. Johnnie Moore will provide good scientific leadership for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program."

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In his new capacity with CALFED and the USGS, Dr. Moore will help identify the state of scientific knowledge on topics important to the Program and advise the Authority on strategies for addressing critical science issues. He is also expected to develop and advise on performance measures to evaluate various program actions and to help CALFED implement adaptive management, monitoring and scientific investigation to reduce uncertainties in Bay-Delta science.

"The lead scientist provides an important link among stakeholders, Bay-Delta agencies and the scientific community," Wright said. "We look forward to working with Dr. Moore to identify critical issues, develop solutions and follow through on sound strategies to improve our understanding of the Bay-Delta and its watersheds."

While in this position, Dr. Moore will be employed by the USGS.

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The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is a cooperative effort of more than 20 state and federal agencies working with local communities to improve the quality and reliability of California's water supplies and revive the San Francisco Bay-Delta ecosystem. The CALFED plan is the largest, most comprehensive water management effort in the nation.